

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian and Lithuanian SSRs)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1A
SUBJECT	Conditions in Bauska, Kaunas, and Panevezys	DATE DISTR.	10 August 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.	1949 - 1951	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/> 25X1A	REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. Some prices as of spring 1951 in shops in Kaunas were:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Bread, rye	kg	1.75 rb
Bread, wheat	kg	2.50 rb
Butter, also fats	kg	40-60 rb
Man's suit, poor quality	-	500 rb
Man's suit, good quality	-	1800 rb
Man's shoes, thick, rubber soles	-	485 rb
Man's shoes, leather soles	-	385 rb

2. The biggest markets were in Siauliai, Anyksciai, and Utena. The biggest one was in Utena, which was open every Thursday; there were 400 to 500 horse-carts on the market. The market in Anyksciai, on the way to Utena, was open on Wednesdays, but those in Siauliai operated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The market days at Bauska were Mondays and Thursdays. The prices on the markets were the same, the difference in prices mostly depending on the season and not on the place. The prices for food in April 1951 were:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Bacon	kg	25-30 rb
Butter	kg	25-30 rb
Egg	apiece	70 kopeks (average market price)
Early tomatoes	kg	25 rb
Sugar	kg	11 rb
Bread, rye, 50% water	kg	1.60 rb
Bread, white	kg	2.70 rb
Bread, rye, from farmer	kg	4 rb

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SECRET

-2-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Rolls	apiece	1 rb
Early apples	apiece	1-2 rb
Flour, usually not available		

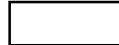
On markets, there were booths for clothing and shoes as in town shops. Prices were:

Man's shoes, good quality	-	500 rb
Man's shoes with rubber sole, part leather	-	160 rb
Girls' tennis shoes	-	70 rb
Man's suit, poorest quality	-	180 rb
Man's suit, good quality	-	1800-2000 rb
Man's topcoat	-	700-1000 rb
Man's shirt	-	150 rb

3. Prices were so high and income so low, that everybody tried to earn additional money with some sort of blackmarketing, such as letting rooms to German refugees, or carrying food from Lithuania to Riga, etc. Each trade had its possibilities for additional income when people learned to be dishonest toward the State, which most of them did. The bus conductor Joniskis-Riga agreed with the German refugees that they would return their tickets when leaving the bus, and the conductor would sell the same ticket to another passenger, keeping the money for himself. The Germans received a better place for that and sometimes when out of money were taken free. In Riga there was a black market somewhere across some water, and on Sundays from about 1000 to 1200 it was crowded. On this black market all kinds of goods, including stolen and State goods, were available.
4. Military service in the Soviet Union was as follows: all men 21 years of age were drafted. Some people even older than 21 were drafted if they had not served before, even up to 30. One man who was 30 and had not served before was drafted in Panevezys and served one year in Kaliningrad. His brother was drafted at the age of 21 and served someplace outside Lithuania, but came home on leave in 1950. During his leave he started a fight with Soviets in Panevezys and was arrested by military police. Regular service in the infantry lasted generally for three years, and the salary was 30 rubles per month. Usually the Lithuanians returned from service as privates, and source heard from them that they avoided commissions and ranks. A man of 25 or 26 was drafted into the Soviet Navy at the beginning of 1948, and still was not released in May 1951. This man had served in the German army during the war, and probably had to serve longer, being overage.
5. Panevezys was the site of the rayon militia office, and these men were responsible for the registration and repatriation of the Germans in Panevezys. The registration was carried out in about May 1949, and a certificate issued to each refugee with personal data and place of residence. Source estimates that at the time of registration there were about 250 Germans in Panevezys. The head of the Panevezys militia was a colonel, and there were a major and a lieutenant. These men did not belong to the MVD, since they did not have red rims around their hats. The proportion among the militiamen was 2/3 Lithuanians and 1/3 Soviets.
6. There was a very helpful Catholic priest in Panevezys, who was kind to the German refugees. He disappeared by the middle of the year 1949, and probably was arrested. A new priest came to replace him, and this man was also helpful. Life for the parish was hard due to the high taxes. The priest collected money to pay the taxes. The pastoral estate was appropriated, and the priest lived in town. He had no need of food, however, since the members of the parish furnished food enough.

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SECRET



-3-

7. The usual way to Riga was from Panevezys to Joniskis by train, fare being about 15 rubles, and then from Joniskis to Riga by bus. The fare Joniskis-Riga by bus was 18 rubles for an adult and 9 rubles for a child. The bus left Joniskis at 0700 or 0730 and arrived in Riga about 1000. The bus was a single car, without a trailer. To catch this bus from Panevezys, one had to leave Panevezys at 1930, and this train arrived at 0130 in Joniskis, where one had to wait for the bus. Sometimes, when visiting the market at Bauska, source went to Joniskis by walking to Zeimelis to take the narrow-gauge train from there to Joniskis. The fare from Zeimelis to Joniskis was about 5 rubles. The bus was usually crowded as far as Riga.

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